

- 1 What is claimed is:
- 2 1. A method for regulating execution of a computer operation, comprising:
 - 3 reading one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;
 - 4 determining if the computer operation requires a plug-in and if not, executing the
 - 5 computer operation;
 - 6 if the computer operation requires at least one plug-in, filtering any required plug-
 - 7 in parameters from the one or more parameters specified with the computer operation;
 - 8 determining whether all required plug-in parameters for the at least one plug-in
 - 9 have been specified;
 - 10 terminating the at least one plug-in with failure if not all the required plug-in
 - 11 parameters have been specified;
 - 12 executing the at least one plug-in if all the required plug-in parameters have been
 - 13 specified; and
 - 14 executing the computer operation if the at least one plug-in terminates with
 - 15 success, wherein the at least one plug-in regulates execution of the computer operation.
- 16 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one plug-in requires at least one plug-in
- 17 parameter.
- 18 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising passing an error message to the
- 19 computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been
- 20 specified.
- 21 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising passing a data structure to the
- 22 computer operation indicating which of the required plug-in parameters have not been
- 23 specified.
- 24 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising prompting a user of the computer
- 25 operation for the required plug-in parameters that had not been specified based on the
- 26 data structure.
- 27 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one plug-in further comprises an
- 28 authorization plug-in and executing the at least one plug-in further comprises attempting
- 29 to obtain authorization for executing the computer operation.
- 30 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising terminating the authorization plug-in
- 31 with failure if authorization was not successfully obtained, thereby terminating the
- 32 computer operation.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein obtaining authorization further includes checking
2 to see whether a value of at least one required plug-in parameter matches the value of at
3 least one authorization parameter.

4 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one authorization parameter is
5 generated using a license key generating tool.

6 10. The method of claim 1, wherein executing at least one plug-in further comprises
7 executing a notification plug-in.

8 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising determining whether all of the plug-in
9 parameters required by the notification plug-in are specified before the computer
10 operation and executing the notification plug-in after execution of the computer
11 operation, whereby the computer operation is not executed if the notification plug-in
12 terminates with failure after determining whether all of the plug-in parameters are
13 specified.

14 12. The method of claim 10, wherein executing the notification plug-in further
15 comprises notifying a party designated for notification.

16 13. A computer operation for executing a system function on a computer further
17 comprising:

18 means for receiving at least one specified computer operation parameter; and
19 at least one plug-in that performs a regulatory function and that terminates with
20 either success or failure,

21 wherein the computer operation will execute only if the at least one plug-in
22 terminates with success.

23 14. The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the computer operation determines
24 which of the specified computer operator parameters is a plug-in parameter and passes all
25 specified plug-in parameters to the at least one plug-in.

26 15. The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in requires at
27 least one required plug-in parameter.

28 16. The computer operation of claim 15, wherein the at least one plug-in determines
29 whether any required plug-in parameters are among the specified plug-in parameters.

30 17. The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in has a check
31 mode in which the plug-in is executed to only check for the at least one required plug-in
32 parameter.

- 1 18. The computer operation of claim 13, wherein the at least one plug-in has an
2 execute mode in which the execute mode causes the plug-in to perform the regulatory
3 function of the plug-in.
- 4 19. The computer operation of claim 17, wherein the computer operation passes a
5 mode flag to the at least one plug-in indicating whether to check for the at least one
6 required plug-in parameter.
- 7 20. The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in generates at
8 least one error message to be returned to the computer operation indicating that at least
9 one required plug-in parameter was not specified.
- 10 21. The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the at least one plug-in passes a data
11 structure to the computer operation, whereby the data structure contains the plug-in
12 parameters that were not specified.
- 13 22. The computer operation of claim 16, wherein the computer operation prompts a
14 user to enter at least one required parameter that was not specified.
- 15 23. The computer operation of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is an
16 authorization plug-in.
- 17 24. The computer operation of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in links to a
18 license key generation tool controlled by an authorizing party so that the authorization
19 plug-in grants authorization only if the system application is executed with a parameter
20 specifying a license key generated by that tool.
- 21 25. The computer operation of claim 23, where the authorization plug-in determines if
22 authorization is granted by querying an authorization server to see if the computer is
23 authorized to perform the computer operation.
- 24 26. The computer operation of claim 13, wherein at least one plug-in is a notification
25 plug-in and has means for notifying a party that the computer operation has been
26 executed.
- 27 27. A method for regulating execution of a computer operation by a computer
28 operator comprising:
29 providing a programming interface for a customer to customize an authorization
30 routine;
31 receiving a request to execute a computer operation from a computer operator;
32 determining if authorization is required for executing the computer operation;
33 seeking authorization from an authorizing party with the authorization routine if
34 authorization is required;

1 executing the computer operation if authorization is granted; and
2 terminating the computer operation if authorization is denied.

3 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:
4 determining if notification is required for executing the computer operation and if
5 notification is required, providing a notification to the party to be notified, so that the
6 party to be notified will know that the computer operation was executed.

7 29. The method of claim 28, wherein prior to executing the computer operation,
8 authorization is sought from the same party as the party being notified, so that the
9 authorizing party is the party being notified.

10 30. The method of claim 27, wherein seeking authorization further comprises asking
11 the computer operator to enter a key and comparing the entered key with a key required
12 by the authorizing party.

13 31. The method of claim 27, further comprising providing a toolkit for the customer to
14 customize the authorization routine.

15 32. The method of claim 28, further comprising determining if notification is required
16 and if notification is required, checking to see if a party to be notified has been specified,
17 wherein failing to specify a party to be notified will cause the computer operation to
18 terminate.